

COUNTY OF STILLWA STATE OF MONTANA STILLWATER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS P. O. BOX 970 COLUMBUS, MONTANA 59019

February 5, 2007

To Legislators:

As Commissioners of Stillwater County, we support HB-541 that will create the Montana Summer Youth Employment Program. Our communities benefit by providing at-risk youth productive, life-changing summer worksite placements that keep them productive and off the streets.

District 7 Human Resources Development Council (HRDC) has provided Stillwater County youth with work experience while emphasizing the correlation between school and occupational choice thereby reinforcing the relevance of academic achievement. Area employers benefit through a young workforce that has received specific as well as soft-skills training. Providing youth with a positive first work experience and employment related soft skills training creates a win/win for our youth and employers.

Through active involvement in our communities, HRDC identifies areas of need and creatively incorporates those who are affected in providing solutions. HRDC has been successfully providing job training programs to at-risk youth in our communities for 40 years. In that time, they have developed a level of expertise that has effectively served our at-risk young population.

We appreciate HRDC's commitment to investing in our most vulnerable youth and ask you to support HB-541.

Sincerely,

STILLWATER BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Maureen Davey

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BIG HORN COUNTY P.O. BOX 908 HARDIN, MT 59034

Fax (406) 665-9706

(406) 665-9700 E-mail to: mhumphrey@co.bighorn.mt.us

January 25, 2007

Human Resources Development Council — District 7

ATTN: Carl Visser 3116 1st Avenue North Billings, MT 59101 Phone: 247-4732 Fax: 248-2943

RE: Summer Youth Program Funding

Greetings Carl:

This is to advise you that the Board of Commissioners of Big Horn County supports legislation which will develop and fund a Summer Youth program. During a recent recruitment, a number of applicants utilized their HRDC program experience, as qualification for entering the workforce. The person, who was hired for the Administrative Clerk position, worked for the HRDC Youth program, while in High School, developing people skills through "on-the-job experience," which serve well, in this capacity.

This is to further advise you that our community is currently taking on the challenge of "poverty-reduction," through participation in the Horizons Program, funded by the NorthWest Area Foundation. The Board of Commissioners has authorized the County's participation in this process; and our recent hire represents the County, on this committee. A Community Enhancement Association has also been formed, to address quality of life issues.

If we are to successfully engage in "poverty-reduction" to better our community, programs such as the Summer Youth Worker program are considered vital. We need to be empowered to give our Youth opportunity and what better way, than to implement and fully fund the HRDC Summer Youth program, which has long since been proven to bring out the winner in a child.

Very truly yours,

Chad Fenne Chairman

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS BIG HORN COUNTY, MONTANA



South Central JobLINC Community Management Team (SCJ)

2121 Rosebud Drive, Stop B Billings, MT 59102-6274 (406) 652-3080

December 19, 2006

State of Montana Legislature Capitol Helena, MT 59620

Dear Legislators:

As Chair of the South Central JobLINC Community Management Team (SCJ), after due consideration by the Partners of the SCJ, this letter is provided in support of legislation to develop and fund a Summer Youth Employment Program.

The South Central JobLINC is supportive of programs not only to develop the future workforce for our state but to assist them in achieving academic and employment success. The Summer Youth Employment Program which was operated several years back, had a proven record of assisting youth with employment and work ethic skills, leadership development, decision-making, citizenship and community service.

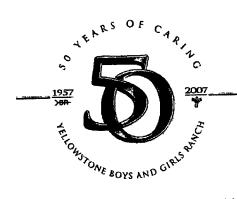
The South Central JobLINC Community Management Team is composed of employment, training and social service agencies including Adult Basic Education and Learning Center (School District 2), Adult Protective Services, Alternatives Inc., AFL-CIO - Project Challenge Work Again, BEAR Program (Business Expansion And Retention), Beartooth R C & D, Big Sky Economic Development Authority, Billings Job Service Employers' Committee, Billings Job Service Workforce Center, Billings YWCA Employment and Training, Blind And Low Vision Services, Child Support Enforcement, COR Enterprises & Career Guidance Center (CGC), Development Disabilities Program, Experience Works, Housing Authority Of Billings, Human Resource Development Council (HRDC) - District VII, Inter Faith Hospitality Network, Job Connection, Inc., Job Corps, Montana Center On Disabilities, Montana Department of Commerce, Montana Migrant Council, Montana State University Billings, Montana State University Billings, College of Technology, Montana State University Northern - Educational Opportunity Center, Montana United Indian Association (A 166 Provider), Montana Vocational Rehabilitation, Office Of Public Assistance - Bighorn County, Office Of Public Assistance - Bighorn County, Office Of Public Assistance - Carbon, Stillwater & Sweet Grass Counties, Rural Employment Opportunities (REO), The Resource Center (Yellowstone Council on Aging), Rocky Mountain College, Senior and Long-Term Care, Unemployment Insurance, Veterans Upward Bound / MSU-Northern Center For Veterans, and Working Partners - Easter Seals.

We strongly support the development and funding of a Summer Youth Employment Program for low-income and at-risk youth to assist these Montana citizens in succeeding academically and developing the skills to enter Montana's workforce.

Sincerely, Rhuw Ried

Becky Reidl

Chair



YELLOWSTONE Boys and Girls Ranch Community Based Services

"It sure makes a difference when you know somebody cares"

Thursday, January 04, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing this letter in support of increasing funding for HRDC's summer youth employment program.

Many of Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch – Community Based Services' clients benefit from this program. It provides young people with the skills and tools needed to enter the job market as productive citizens. The summer youth employment program also assists Montana communities in breaking the cycle of poverty. Youth learn the value of employment and responsibility. This program is an asset to Montana and individual communities.

Please consider increasing funds to support this effective and much needed program. Thank you for time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Shawn Byrne

Shan Bym

Chief Operating Officer

Rick Hamblin

Director, Therapeutic Family Living

1. Hamel.

Yellowstone County Youth Services Center

Secure Detention • Crisis Shelter Care P.O. Box 30856 • Billings, MT 59107 Office: (406) 256-6825 Fax: (406) 256-6836



Sara Fox District 7 HRDC 7 North 31st Billings, Mt. 59101

Re: Summer Youth Employment Program

Dear Legislators,

I would like to take this opportunity to express my support for the Summer Youth Employment Program administered by the District 7 Human Resource Development Council. It is my understanding there is a push to expand the current program to serve more youth in this region and beyond. I would ask that the present legislative session support this endeavor.

Our agency programs serve youth, who directly benefit from the employment program being administered by the District 7 HRDC office. Many of the youth we work with demonstrate a strong desire to become employed prior to becoming 16 years of age; opportunities for this population are far and few between in the community. It has been our experience that youth who are employed through such programs engage in less delinquent behavior and ultimately benefit on several levels (e.g., self-esteem, positive adult relationships, responsibility, community contribution, etc.) beyond financial gain.

We have referred some very difficult youth to this program historically. The staff at the District 7 HRDC office has gone above and beyond to "reach" these youth on an interpersonal level in addition to merely placing them in an employment setting. Youth served by the Summer Work Program have the opportunity to learn skills and develop relationships, which will not only improve their lives, but the community at large. I

would strongly encourage the current legislative session to support the Human Resource Development Council in their effort to expand this program.

Sincerely,

Sean R. Dunn

Youth & Family Stabilization Program Yellowstone County Youth Service Center

Central and Billings Service Area Offices



2334 Lewis Avenue, Billings, MT 59102 (406) 245-6539 - Fax (406) 245-9647

RECEIVED

J.: 10 2 2007

DIST. #7 HRDC

12/21/06

David Boggus HRDC 3116 1s/t Avenue North Billings, MT 59102

Dear David Bogus,

I am writing you in regards to your summer employment program. I am a Care Manager with Youth Dynamics, Inc. I work with emotionally disturbed youth foster in families and natural families. During the summer of 2006 I worked with 3 14-year old-youth who worked for HRDC. One worked at a middle school; another worked at a MRM retail store; and the 3r/d on worked at a retail hardware store. We experienced positive outcomes in all 3 circumstances. The youth liked their jobs. They benefited with invaluable living skills and improved self esteem. One boy wanted to frame his first paycheck and hang it on the wall; we had to convince him to cash it. All 3 families are planning on enrolling in 2007. Thanks for providing the wonderful opportunity.

Sincerely

John Stoughton Care Manager



January 4, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in regards to the HRDC Montana Summer Youth Employment Program. I work for the Tumbleweed Runaway Program, Inc. and I have personally collaborated with HRDC through two different programs within Tumbleweed over the past 2 1/2 years. Teaming with HRDC through our Street Outreach Program and Independent/Transitional Living Program has been invaluable to the population of youth (at-risk, 16-18 years) we serve.

HRDC has been able to provide Street Outreach supplies including gloves, beanies, blankets, book bags, etc. for youth on the streets in Billings, Lockwood, and Laurel. Without these supplies we would not have been able to meet the immediate needs of our street youth. HRDC has also provided our Independent/Transitional Living Program youth with financial assistance while in our First Step House and when they transition into their own apartments. They have also assisted our youth with employment and job training. The youth who have participated through HRDC's Employment and Job Training Program have obtained the skills and tools they individually needed in order to succeed in their desired job.

With all of that said, I think that the Montana Summer Youth Employment Program would be very useful to the youth in the Billings community who will be entering the work force as they reach employable age. I believe HRDC will help these youth feel more confident in their skills and help develop their competencies in areas they know little about and/or struggle in.

Sincerely,

Nicole Keltner

Independent/Transitional Living Program First Step House Supervisor/

Street Outreach Program Coordinator

Welmer

505 N. 24th Street

Billings, MT 59101

(406) 259-2558

nicole.keltner@tumbleweedprogram.org



December 31, 2006

To Whom It May Concern:

MTC Outreach, Admissions and Career Transition Services of Job Corps wishes to submit a letter of support for District 7 Human Resources Development Council (HRDC) in Billings for their proposal of the Montana Summer Youth Employment Program.

HRDC's purpose is to provide Montana's low income and other at-risk youth with summer employment and job training directly linking them to academic and occupational learning. Their past successes with the Summer Youth Employment Program are the reasons we support their proposal.

HRDC has set goals that are attainable and their agency has the experience to assist at risk youth in achieving academic and employment successes with the use of effective and comprehensive activities.

We feel that HRDC provides the opportunities for eligible youth 14-17 years of age to participate and relate to leadership development, decision-making, citizenship and community service.

Please accept this letter of support. If we may answer any further questions, please feel free to contact me at 406-628-7850.

Sincerely,

Marcy Buster

Montana State Coordinator

MTC Outreach, Admissions, and Career Transitions Services of Job Corps

2830 N. Ramshorn Drive

Laurel, Montana 59044

RIVERSIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL

3700 Madison Avenue Billings, MT 59101 Phone (406) 237-6800

1/03/07

To Whom It May Concern:

This is a letter to confirm my support of the Montana Summer Youth Employment Program. As the principal of Riverside Middle School I can speak to the advantages of maintaining and possibly expanding this terrific program for economically disadvantaged youth.

Riverside Middle School is a targeted Title One educational institution, due to the large number of low income families that reside in our area. We have benefited directly from this fantastic program. The students chosen to work the summers have been very responsible and conscientious. Our custodians look forward to working with these students. They have an opportunity to get to know the child on a totally different level.

Although we directly benefit from their services, I feel strongly that there is more to this that meets the eye. Case in point, last summer we hired a young lady that was very reserved and at times withdrawn during the school year. I was concerned when I noticed that she would be working with us all summer. To my surprise this girl came out of her shell and revealed a spunky and positive attitude. Once she began to trust us she was a delight to work with. Without this opportunity to help our disadvantaged youth we would have never been able to reach out to this young lady. One point worth noting is that she is still coming back to visit the staff at Riverside. She developed a strong work ethic that was very beneficial to both her and our school. This program is a great opportunity to help economically disadvantaged youth both economically and social-emotionally. To the best of my knowledge we have never had a negative experience with the youth provided us through HRDC. They have done a fantastic job of screening and hiring the appropriate person for the job.

Please consider this request to continue and possibly expand this fantastic opportunity for our less fortunate youth.

Sincerely,

Lew Anderson



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DIST. #7 HRDC

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Big Brothers Big Sisters of Yellowstone County
2624 Minnesota Avenue Suite #B01
Billings, Montana 59101
406-248-2229 phone
406-294-2223 fax
bbrosis@wtp.net

December 21, 2006

HRDC PO Box 2016 Billings, MT 59103

Good Day,

This letter is in support of the proposal for the summer youth job training program. We were fortunate enough to have a youth from this program work with us this past summer. Jonathan proved to be a wonderful addition to our staff. While here, we entrusted him with many tasks, some he was familiar with, some he was not. By the time our employment period was over, Jonathan had learned MANY new skills, and had endeared himself to our entire staff.

Big Brothers Big Sisters is committed to helping children reach their potential through professionally supported one-to-one mentoring relationships. We believe we served as Jonathan's mentor as he learned new job skills and refined others. What we didn't imagine is just how much we'd learn from him. Yes, he was 15 at the time, but he had a unique perspective that enhanced our own knowledge base of how to work with teens. While he benefited by improving his competencies, gaining new skills and receiving pay for work accomplished, we benefited by the privilege of being a part of his educational journey.

The summer youth employment program definitely benefits kids, but the benefits enjoyed by the agency that employs the youth goes way beyond comprehension! This partnership will enhance not only the life of the youth; it will forever enhance the experience of the workplace.

If you have any questions or require further information, please don't hesitate to contact me at the above address/phone.

Sincerely,

Sleky Wubber
Becky Webber
Executive Director



To Whom It May Concern:

January 4, 2007

The Trustees of the Big Horn County Library have asked me on behalf of themselves and the staff of the Library, to write you in support of the HRDC Summer Youth Program. The Trustees feel that the opportunity offered by the Summer Youth Program is vital to young people as they set the goals that will guide them through High School and beyond.

The Trustees and the Staff feel that it is a practical impossibility in a rural area for many teenagers to gain a first real exposure to the work place. The HRDC Summer Youth Program in partnership with the Library has served two dozen young people in the last decade as that critical first step. The HRDC Summer Youth Program has excelled in guiding young people on the road to achievement. Our last five Summer interns have progressed on to the University of Montana, The U.S. Army Reserve, MSU-B Technical School and the youngest two are enrolled in the HRDC year around work program. Not one youth has dropped out of school, gotten pregnant, fallen prey to drugs or been arrested for underage drinking.

The Summer Youth Program provides a neutral, supervised and supportive site where young teens can develop their work ethic, learn to budget time, take on mature responsibilities and earn a real income of their own. The Library offers the youth an opportunity to expand their writing skills, basic computer literacy and their abilities to meet and deal professionally with the public. The HRDC Summer Youth Program is a unique and valuable asset for youth at a critical time in their lives.

Please extend the efforts of your office to insure the expansion of the HRDC Summer Youth Program. We strongly endorse your efforts to secure stable funding and we pledge our best effort to support and maintain our Summer Youth Program work site.

Yours sincerely,

Eric Halverson,
Director
Big Horn County Public Library

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL Billings District Council

26 December 2006

Human Resources Development Council – District 7 c/o HRDC Youth Program Coordinator 3116 1st Ave N Billings, MT 59101

Dear Youth Program Coordinator,

I would like to take a moment to thank you for the opportunities you offer the areas young people with the HRDC Youth Program.

The HRDC Youth Program provides financial assistance to low income families as well as necessary skills which pertain to any common workplace. It also gives young people insight into appropriate social interaction with other employees and a sense of responsibility for attendance in future employment. The HRDC Youth program most importantly instills a feeling of confidence in one's own self-sufficiency.

This program is indispensable and would otherwise be unable to help support their families or selves. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is privileged to assist the youth in growing to understand the value of a days work and in becoming a valuable member of the community.

Sincerely,

Iris Anderson Volunteer Coordinator Society of St. Vincent de Paul Billings District Council





2610 Montana Ave. Billings, MT 59101

PHONE WEB SITE (406) 252-1855 www.svdpmt.org

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To: 4064499949



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BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS Of Yellowstone County

DIST. #7 HRDC

Bair Family Unit 505 Orchard Lane Billings, MT 59101-5027 Tel 406-245-2582 Fax 406-252-3633 www.bgcyellowstone.org

To Whom It May Concern;

December 20, 2006

As a past participant in the Summer Youth Employment Program, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Yellowstone County has seen the impact this program has had on youth by providing them with the opportunity to learn, practice and develop life-long employment skills. The Club is a perfect environment that nurtures and expects all staff to exhibit the skills that promote caring, responsible and productive citizenship

Youth employed through the program tend to connect every well with Club members partly because of their age and background. In addition, they develop critical skills in communications, decision making, leadership and relationship building while working closely with full-time, professional staff.

In closing, several of the youth have been hired at the Club after the program ended and grown into excellent staff. If you have any questions or concerns please contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

Mike Marnin

Chief Professional Officer

Thana

Officers Marilyn Owen Chief Volunteer Officer

Jay Kohn Secretary

Scott Mitchell Treasurer

Tom Zimmer Past CVO

Board of Directors

Pat Angland Kim Barnett Katy Davies Lance Egan Gerry Fagan Josh Gardner Berte Heath Pam Hoffman Chris Hoiness Don Jones Gwen Kircher Carina Lange Linda Merchant Terry Sukut Steve Tucker Jim Walker

Chief Professional Officer Michael W. Marnin mmarnin@bgcycllowstone.org

Honorary Members Alberta Bair* Senator Max Baucus Senator Conrad Burns Timothy J. Healy Peter Kriendler Joseph S. Sample Edward A. Spidel*

*Deceased



Montana State Legislature Helena, MT

December 19, 2006

Dear Legislators:

I am writing in support of the Summer Youth Employment Program that is being brought before the legislature. I am writing as an active voter, community member, parent and past summer counselor.

As a voter, I believe this is a sound fiscally responsible way to spend tax dollars that I help contribute to. It puts money back into the local communities through the wages these young people make and spend. It is also helps build a stronger workforce for the future of this community. Investing money into training young people to be good employees benefits the business community, tax revenues and acts as prevention for possible future TANF recipients.

As a community member I see the young adults as a generation of untapped resources that needs to be guided and molded in order to truly develop their talents. During the summer young people have extra time on their hands. Often if they do not have the positive constructive ways to spend their time they can get diverted and make some bad choices. I truly believe this program gives them the much needed positive activity that helps bond them to their community and allows them the ability to be seen as the treasure they are.

As a parent this is important because so many young adults need the chance to feel responsible and help contribute to their families. This allows them to learn good money management skills, the benefits of working and the value of a dollar. This society has become so disposable and I believe when someone has to work to earn something there is always true value in what you have earned.

For a number of years I worked as a counselor in a youth employment and training program that provided young people the opportunity to work and learn. I have seen so many heart wrenching examples of how this type of program can be a necessity for many families in our communities. I remember one family where the grandmother was raising her two grandsons on a fixed income, barely making ends meet. Her oldest grandson worked every summer as much as he could to save money that provided him and his brother with school clothes and money that allowed them to be in football and wrestling every year. This young man worked at a site with young children and was an outstanding, fabulous role model to the children he worked with! He benefited from the program, but

December 26, 2006

To the Montana Legislators,

My name is Christina Castro. I am writing to you today to let you know a little about how the HRDC Summer Youth Program has greatly helped my family. My first son, Joshua, went through the program at 14. He continued until he was 16, at which time, he ventured out on his own, seeking employment with Target, utilizing the invaluable skills he learned through this program. He has since graduated, is now 20, attending college part-time and employed with Best Buy. My daughter, Jessica, at 14, began her journey to employment through the Summer Youth Program, also. She worked as an assistant in a used clothing store, thus, giving her the confidence to also seek employment on her own. She began a job with Big Bear at 16. She is now 17 and is employed with Vanity Clothiers, and is doing quite well in school. My son, Josiah, is 15. He is the reason I am writing today. At age 12, Josiah became involved with a notorious gang; hence, setting off what would become his criminal career. At the time of his 14th birthday, I was near my wit's end. I once again called on the HRDC Youth Program to help. As a single mother of 7, life is often very daunting, yet, still rewarding. At times like this, it is so refreshing to know that there are still good people in the world that are willing to reach out to you and help. Without the HRDC Summer/Year-round Youth Program, I can honestly say that I do not believe that my son, Josiah, would be with us today. It has been because of their diligence, perseverance, and belief in my son that he is a success today. At 15 years of age, he not only is the young father of an 8 month old darling little baby girl, he has been clean and sober, attending Intensive Outpatient Treatment 3 times a week, he is doing remarkably well in school and will graduate on time. His probation and supervision will end on January 28, 2007. He began his new job on December 26, 2006, and all because of people like Matt Owens, and Sara Fox. They encouraged Josiah when I could not. They invested time and effort in him I was no longer willing to give. I had been put through 3 long and hellish years of running away, truancy, outbursts, disrespect, stealing, lying, drugs, both use and sales, gang activity, threats to myself and my family, etc. I had had enough. Without Sara and Matt, I don't believe this would have turned into the success story it obviously depicts. I would encourage you, and also, implore you to keep funding this much needed Community Program. It is our children's lives we are investing in and they are our future. It is well worth the effort, time and resources to do so. Not to, would be a travesty of justice, detrimental to our fundamental belief system, and inconducive to the public's good.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this very important issue.

Sincerely,

Christina Castro

Charles Carlino



WHERE THE BATTLE BEGAN

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF WESTERN SPIRIT

GARRYOWEN MONTANA

P.O. BOX 200 • GARRYOWEN • MT • 59031-0200 voice • 406.638.2020 fax • 406.638.2019

January 5, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

I am in full support of the Montana Summer Youth Employment Program. Last summer we worked with two youths. The Program was great in that the student had prior training which introduced them to the ethics of work. The program instilled valuable employment skills, and provided the youth with a summer income. In addition it was a great program on our part to look as the employment as a training process with a healthy dose of evaluation. The program was a great success here at Garryowen.

The Program's educational activities enhanced the participants' exposure to the world of work, we found that the student gained self-confidence, a strong work ethic and accountability, which I believe will help them to succeed over the long term. In particular the Program helped the youth to make a successful transition to healthy adulthood and economic independence by seeing the value of a job well done.

In closing I am in full support of Bill LC 950 which would provide a great opportunity to train youth for the workforce.

Sincerery,

Chris Kortlander

December 30, 2006

Montana State Legislature Helena, Montana 59620

Dear Legislatures:

I am writing this letter on behalf of the HRDC Youth Employment Program. When I was 14 years of age I was given the opportunity to work on the Summer Youth Program. I was headed as they say, down the wrong road and someone seen a chance to make a difference. I was at such an impressionable age and eager to learn. What I took home that summer was a pride in myself, responsibility, and money! I can remember my first check, coming home and taking my mom and younger siblings to the 25 cent Hamburger Shop and thinking I was important. The look on my mom's face made me feel so happy and proud. I worked many more summers and eventually worked on the year round program, learning something different from every job.

My life back than is nothing like the youth have it today. We have far more gang like activity, drugs and just falling into the wrong crowds. If we can reach the youth now we can make a difference. There is nothing more rewarding than helping to mold and build our future role models. I can honestly say that I have watched some of the youth come into the program seeming so despaired and by the end of the summer having hope and a feeling of worthiness.

I am proud to say that I work for HRDC, as a supervisor for the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP). I ask you to please consider this as an investment in our future and I thank you for what the Youth Program has given me over the years.

Sincerely,

Patty Wilson

January 4, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of increasing funding for HRDC's Summer Youth Employment Program. As a summer employment counselor and teacher of at risk students, I have seen first hand how beneficial the program is to the youth it serves.

This program allows low-income youth to develop employment skills. This is very important in this program and societal's goal of breaking the cycle of poverty these youth are caught in. Most of these youth live in generational poverty. A lot do not have adult role models to teach them work ethics. This program helps take that place by making entering the work force less scary and teaching youth work skills that will serve them well into adulthood. This program sets the youth up with counselors to help make their first work experience successful so that the youth will be more inclined to join the work force again. This benefits not only the communities in which these youth work, but also the entire state's economic status.

Please consider the benefits of this program not only to the youth, but also to the community and state. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Courtney Hamblin

Faron L. Iron P.O. Box 125 Garryowen, MT 59031

January 3, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

I've had three children that participated in the HRDC Summer Youth Program since 2002.

It teaches the association of work and money to a segment (teenagers) of our society that would usually have limited opportunity in a depressed area. They learned the work ethic, a variety skills and job experience to prepare them for their future.

Being of low income my children also learned that if they wanted something they would have to earn it because Daddy could not afford everything they desired.

This program should be expanded within the State of Montana so it can provide opportunities to other low income children.

Sincerely,

Faron L. Iron

	1/8/06 Rt one 60x 1212 hardin MT 5,9034
444-44	To who it may concern
	I was a employee on the HRDC
	youth Program, the Program was
	a vary good experience for
**************************************	me and the other People I knew,
	The Pregram made me more comfortable
:	Knowing that they would teache us
	how to so interveing and how to
	dress and act in the work place.
	I feel that Program-gives youth
	a better chance in life of
	getting a good Job.
	Sincerely Jesse Ferderer

1/12/07

_	
	To whom it may concern, My name is Bridger Holds The Enemy, and I was in the summer youth program For HRDC and I thought it was a great experience for me. So I can develop My work skills and also to make a little Money, also to keep me out of trouble and give me something to do during my summer vacation. So I totally support the summer Vacation.
	Tripo Hobs he Enewly
<u> </u>	

January 12, 2007

I was in the summer program with HRDC my first year with them. I was with HRDC for 4 years and after the first summer I went full time. During the summer program we had many classes that helped a lot. Most of those classes had to do with soft skills. I am currently in my second semester of college and I belive that these soft skills I learned have helped tremendously with my sucess. I am currently running a 3.5 GPA. HRDC not only helped me get this skills they also made sure I could get to the classes. Being only 14 and with no driving license it would have been very tough without there help. The many caseworkers I had were also very helpful. They would call the job site at least once a week to make sure everything was going well, there was nothing I needed, and to make sure I was actually working! I'm positive without the support of HRDC I would not have made it where I am today.

Thank you,

Daniel Burcham

Dring Da

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BPS ADULT ED





01/12/2007

Educational Opportunity Center

Lincoln Center 415 North 30th Street Billings, MT 59101 Phone 406-247-3706 Fax 406-247-3799

Montana Legislature C/o Sara Fox, Youth Program Director District 7 HRDC 7 North 31st Billings, MT 59101

RE: Youth Employment: Funding Request from Mt State Legislature

Dear Legislature,

I write this letter to support the District 7 HRDC programs application for additional summer youth employment dollars. The summer youth program has benefited the Billings Community for more than 20 years by providing low income student with employed for the summer months. The increased dollars provided to the summer youth program will provide more opportunities for first generation, low income youth in our community.

Educational Opportunity Center in Billings encourages all eligible students to apply to the HRDC youth summer and academic year programs. Last year unfortunately because of a decrease in funding the District 7 HRDC youth program maintained a fairly large wait list. This summer with the additional funding request being granted the amount of low income students who can earn wages this summer would be increased substantially.

Please give the application for additional dollars your utmost attention. The youth program in Billings provided a necessary service to disadvantaged youth. The director, case managers and partner agencies provide employment, life skills and self esteem to many youth who might otherwise fall to the wayside. The Montana Summer Youth Employment program is one which has had far reaching effect. The employment of a low income youth often provides a foundation for the students' future work ethics.

Please note the evaluations of this fantastic program and increase the amount of youth it will impact this summer.

Sincerely,

Michelle Gasek. EOC 415 North 30th Billings, MT 59101

406-247-3706





January 11, 2007

Dear Montana State Legislature,

I write to you in support of the summer youth program. Over the past ten years I have had the privilege of mentoring youth on a job site and referring youth to the program. As a youth case manager and juvenile probation officer I have referred numerous youth to the program. Due to limited funds not all the youth I refer are able to take part in the program.

There are numerous reasons I refer youth to the program. It provides employment opportunities to youth that would otherwise not be employed. For youth that have court fines or owe victim restitution the money they earn is used to pay for those obligations. It allows youth to become more connected to their community through the mentoring they receive from the job sites and job coaches. The program prevents youth from becoming unemployed adults. The program provides training skills and encourages youth to remain in school. With it being a summer program it provides a structured activity for high-risk youth and prevents further crimes from being committed.

The employment of youth leads to a healthier community and for that reason I support the summer program being continued and expanded in any way possible.

Sincerely,

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